

Cattlemen, Farmers, Businesses, Water Districts and Environmentalists Converge on Sacramento for the 7th Annual "Sierra Day in the Capitol"

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By: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Representatives from 19 organizations with a broad array of interests will come together in Sacramento Wednesday, April 14, for the 7th Annual Sierra Day in the Capitol. The message they'll be bringing to legislators and staff members is about the importance of the Sierra Nevada Region to the entire state.

"The Sierra Region is crucial to California in so many ways," said Jim Branham, Executive Officer with the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC), which is coordinating this year's event. "We want to make sure our Legislature is up to date on aware of the need to protect and enhance the many benefits the Region provides, such as clean water, family recreation, a home for wildlife, and many others."

Organizations representing cattlemen, businesses, water resources, land trusts, and other groups (complete list below) will be walking the halls and attending meetings in the Capitol. Accompanying Sierra Day this year will be a Sierra photo gallery with works by professional photographers from throughout the Region, as well as the unveiling of a permanent window box display showing the Sierra as the source for 65 percent of the state's water. Both displays are located in the hallway outside the Governor's Office.

"Sierra Day is an opportunity to connect those in the Capitol with the people and issues in the Sierra Region," said Elizabeth "Izzy" Martin, CEO of The Sierra Fund, a non-profit organization based in Nevada City that began the Sierra Day tradition seven years ago. "We always come away from the experience with a feeling that the Legislature has a better understanding of why the Sierra is so important to all Californians."

In addition to the SNC and The Sierra Fund, the participating organizations include the Bear-Yuba Partnership, California Cattlemen's Association, California Forestry Association, California Rangeland Trust, California Ski Industry Association, CalTrout, Mountain Counties Water Resources Association, Northern Sierra Partnership, Pacific Forest Trust, Planning and Conservation League, Regional Council of Rural Counties, Sierra Business Council, Sierra-Cascade Land Trust Council, Sierra Environmental Water Caucus, Sierra Nevada Alliance, Southern Sierra Partnership, and The Trust for Public Land.

Sierra Day will be followed by the Sierra Business Council's Vision 2020 Awards event from 6-8 p.m. at the Leland Stanford Mansion. For more information on the Vision 2020 Awards event, visit: www.SBCouncil.org, or contact Nikki Streegan, Sierra Business Council, (530) 582-4800.

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy was created in 2004. Its mission is to initiate, encourage, and support efforts that improve the environmental, economic and social well-being of the Sierra Nevada Region, its communities and the citizens of California. Its sources of funding are the Environmental License Plate Fund and Proposition 84, the Clean Water Act.